

CLAIMS

1. A method for controlling a plurality of portions in an information device by a plurality of control devices in a network which is formed by connecting the information device to the plurality of control devices via communication means having a prescribed communication format, comprising:

selecting said portion to be controlled, which said control device desires to control, from means for selecting said portion to be controlled which is provided by said information device to said control device,

transmitting the selected information itself and identification information on said control device having selected said portion to be controlled to said information device,

preserving identification information on said portion to be controlled which is selected and said identification information on said control device as a control correspondence table in which said both identification information are brought into correspondence with each other by said information device having received said selected information and said identification information on said control device, repeating said selecting step, said transmitting step and said preserving step each time said control device selects said portion to be controlled, and

controlling said portion to be controlled which corresponds to identification information on an issuer of a control request, by referring to said control correspondence table which is preserved, when said information device receives said control request from said control device.

2. The method according to claim 1, wherein said communication means is an IEEE1394 digital interface.

3. The method according to claim 1, wherein each of said means for selecting the portion to be controlled and

means for controlling the portion to be controlled uses a pass-through command which is defined in an AV/C panel subunit model and command set.

4. The method according to claim 1, wherein said information device is capable of reproducing software information recorded in a digital versatile disc.

5. The method according to claim 1, wherein said communication means uses an interface based on a wireless communication.

6. The method according to claim 5, wherein said wireless communication uses the Bluetooth method.

7. The method according to claim 5, wherein said wireless communication uses an infra-red ray method.

8. The method according to claim 1, wherein said information device is capable of reproducing audio visual information recorded in a hard disc.

9. The method according to claim 1, wherein said control device is a digital television receiver which can receive digital broadcasts.

10. An information processing apparatus which is connected to a plurality of control devices via communication means having a prescribed communication format to form a network and which is controlled by said control device, comprising:

a plurality of portions to be controlled, which can be controlled by said control device;

a transmitter operable to provide selection means to said control device in order that said control device can select a portion to be controlled, which said control device wants to control;

a receiver operable to receive information itself selected by the selection means and identification information on said control device having selected the portion to be controlled;

a preserving unit operable to preserve identification information on the portion to be controlled, which is selected and the identification information on said control device as a control correspondence table in which the both identification information are in correspondence with each other; and

a controller in which, each time said control device selects the portion to be controlled, the provision of the selection means, the reception made by the receiver, and the preservation made by the preserving unit are repeatedly performed, and which, when the receiver receives a control request from said control device, by referring to said control correspondence table which is preserved, controls the portion to be controlled, which corresponds to the identification information on an issuer of the control request.

11. An information control system in which an information device having a plurality of portions to be controlled and a plurality of control devices capable of controlling the information device are connected via communication means having a prescribed communication format to form a network and said control device controls the portions to be controlled in the information device, wherein said control device has selection means for selecting the portion to be controlled and control request means for making a request to control the selected portion to be controlled, said information device comprising:

a plurality of portions to be controlled which are controllable by said control device;

a transmitter operable to provide the selection means to said control device in order that said control device can select the portion to be controlled, which said control device wants to control;

a receiver operable to receive information itself selected by the selection means and identification

information on the control device having selected the portion to be controlled;

a preserving unit operable to preserve identification information on said selected portion to be controlled and the identification information on the control devices as a control correspondence table in which the both identification information are in correspondence with each other; and

a controller in which, each time said control device selects said portion to be controlled, the provision of the selection means, the reception made by the receiver, and the preservation made by the preserving unit are repeatedly performed, and which, when the receiver receives a control request from said control device, by referring to said control correspondence table which is preserved, controls said portion to be controlled, which corresponds to the identification information on an issuer of the control request.